

Watson's Novelty Supplement

SPRING, 1904.

NEW DAHLIA.

"Katherine Duer."

This new dahlia, which originated in Newport, is, without a doubt the finest acquisition ever added to the large list of dahlias. It is remarkable not only for its size and beautiful form, being the largest flower ever seen in the dahlia line, but also for its beautiful crimson red color, making it one of the best blooms for vases, as well as for general decorations. It is a very vigorous grower, free bloomer, and good keeper, and will in time be the universal favorite for the market as well as the private grower.

The following account has been kindly furnished by John G. Gardner, who has grown this Dahlia for the past two seasons:

The Katherine Duer Dahlia was raised from seed by William Allen, gardener to the late W. R. Travers, Newport, R. I. It was named after Miss Katherine Duer, whose mother was a daughter of W. R. Travers (Miss Duer married Clarence Mackay). It is of the decorative type, fine large flowers, crimson red color, growing to height of 6 or 8 feet, splendid long stems; a fine variety for vases and general decorations. It has not been registered, but has taken prizes for table decorations and fancy baskets at the Newport Horticultural Society shows; also at the Newport Casino show. The past two



years it has been in great demand at Newport for table decorations and hunt dinners. I believe it to be the best red Dahlia in cultivation to-day.


Plants ready April 15th, in 2½ inch pots, 25c. each, \$2.50 per dozen.

NEW DAHLIA.

"Clifford W. Bruton."

The finest clear yellow Dahlia in existence. Five to six inches across. Full and double like a chrysanthemum; long stems. Strong roots; 25c. each; \$2.50 doz.

WATSON'S BEST TEN DAHLIAS

 We call special attention to "Our Best Ten" Dahlias, described below. These are in our opinion the best in their respective classes, either new or old, and will give grand results. 15c. each, \$1.50 doz.

- NYPHAEA, pink (cactus).
- VESTA, pure white (show).
- MRS. WYTHAM, yellow and white (show).
- ZULU, very dark maroon (cactus).
- ADELAIDE, bright yellow (show).
- MADGE WILDFIRE, scarlet (decorative.)
- W. C. BRYANT, yellow tipped pink (decorative.)
- WM. AGNEW, bright scarlet (show).
- COCHINEAL, red (cactus).
- LITTLE FRED, pink tipped carmine (pom-pom.)



Watson's Seed Store, Juniper and Locust Sts., Philadelphia.

Watson's New Peonies from Japan



REGD SAF PEONY ASSN
MCH 7th 1903.

We have just received a special importation of new Peonies from Japan, which we now offer for immediate planting. The collection consists of 27 varieties—double, semi-double, single and anemone-flowered. Names and descriptions on application. This collection is well deserving the attention of connoisseurs. The colored plates of the whole collection can be seen at our office. We will furnish: a set of the 27 varieties, 1 plant of each, for \$13.20. Early application is advised, as Peonies should be planted as early as possible in the spring. We will have another importation in the fall. If you cannot plant now, book at once for fall delivery.

European Peonies.

"Great peonies in crimson pride
And budding ones in green that hide."

In Shakespeare's time the old Double Red, old Double Rose, and old Double White were grown, and have been favorites in our gardens ever since. In the "Tempest" we read of

"... banks with pionied and filled brims,"

and the recent revival of interest in this grand old-fashioned flower indicates a gratifying development of good taste in the present generation. To those who do not care to pay the price for the rarer kinds these old-fashioned European varieties will give excellent satisfaction and should be planted liberally.

	Each.	10	100
Old Double Red,	.15	1.25	10.00
Old Double White,	.25	2.00	16.00
Old Double Rose,	.20	1.50	12.00

Peony Festiva Maxima.



Festiva Maxima is without doubt the finest Double White Peony in existence today. Raised by M. Buyck, of Belgium, over 50 years ago, it is still as good as ever and stands at the top of the list both for commercial and private use. We have imported from Europe a fine lot of it and offer, while stock lasts, strong roots, 2 to 3 good eyes, at 50c. each, \$4 per 10, \$35 per 100.

A History of the Peony.

In response to many requests for copies of the essay delivered before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society by George C. Watson, April 2d, 1904, we have had a number reprinted and will be pleased to mail a copy to any one interested, free of charge. This essay gives a concise account of the origin and history of the Peony, with mention of the prominent raisers of new sorts in France, Belgium, England and the United States during the past century, together with a list of what are considered the best 50 varieties for general use.

Clematis Paniculata.

This is the climber for the million. Produces small white flowers in immense clusters, completely covering the plant. Deliciously fragrant and perfectly hardy. Everyone should plant it freely. We cannot recommend this too highly. \$2.50 per doz.; \$17.00 per 100.

Golden Glow Rudbeckia.

We have a large stock of this fine, hardy plant and can offer it cheap. Strong plants, \$4.00 per 100; \$35.00 per 1000.

New Large Fly **BEGONIAS** OFF'D BY *G.C. WATSON, PHILA.*



The feathery looking flower, mixed with Begonias in the above picture, is *Gypsophila Paniculata*.

New Large Flowering Begonias.

No garden is complete without a good assortment of these wonderful new flowering bulbs. Magnificent as bedding plants, like geraniums, and also fine for pot culture for window or conservatory. Unsurpassed for brilliancy of bloom and variety of color. Our bulbs are selected from the grounds of the foremost European specialists and are the very choicest on the market.

Single Flowering:

Scarlet mixed	} 5 cents each
White "	
Pink "	
Yellow "	
All colors "	
	} 50 cents dozen
	} \$3.50 per 100

Double Flowering:

Scarlet mixed	} 10 cents each
White "	
Pink "	
Yellow "	
All colors "	
	} \$1.00 dozen
	} \$6.00 per 100

"Evening Star" or "Helios" Chrysanthemum. *(Chrysanthemum Segetum.)*

A remarkable novelty from Europe with pure golden-yellow flowers 3 inches diameter; fine for outside culture as it stands wet weather well, the petals remaining firmly extended, rain or shine; also a capital substitute for "Etoile d'or" the yellow Marguerite so much used for cutting and with the advantage of requiring only the treatment of an ordinary annual. Pkt. 25c.

New Eschscholtzia (California Poppy). *(Erecta Compacta).*

A new selection of this valuable annual of very good, upright and compact habit, showing its bloom up far better and more free flowering than the old varieties. Two colors are offered this year—

Rose Queen, Rich rose, and **Mandarin**, rich deep orange, shaded crimson. Each, per pkt. 15c.

Allegheny Hollyhock (Wohler's Strain).

This strain is the result of a number of years careful selecting and crossing of this favorite form of the Hollyhock. Highly recommended. Pkt. 25c.; ounce, \$1.50.



NEW YELLOW PARIS DAISY "HELIOS."



LILIUM RUBELLUM.

Lilium Rubellum.**NEW PINK JAPANESE LILY.**

(Description and Culture Notes by P. Barr.)

When I saw the "Garden" plate of this lily in 1898 I thought it a form of *Lilium Krameri*, but since seeing *Rubellum* flowering in Japan I consider it a good species and am sure it will be extensively cultivated when better known and its culture understood. I cannot conceive of anything more beautiful than a six-inch pot with the plants of this lovely lily in flower in early spring. It is one of the earliest lilies, flowering a month ahead of *Krameri*. It grows about one foot high, compact and elegant, with flowers of a charming pink color. The leaves are shorter and paler green than *Krameri*. In pots, this lily should be grown in poor, stony, sandy loam with two inches of drainage and very judiciously watered from the time of potting. The soil must be kept moist, but never wet, and success will be sure to follow. Out of doors, I would recommend a northern or eastern aspect, and and failing this, plant under deciduous bushes, where the roots in winter will keep the bulbs comparatively dry, and shade the plants from the sun in early spring. I think you should caution your clients against exposing the bulbs to a dry atmosphere; the scales are thin and soon shrivel, therefore if the bulbs cannot be potted up or planted out right away they should be buried in dry soil or out of doors in a northern aspect where they will take no injury from the weather and the bulbs keep plump.

25 cents each, \$2.50 per dozen,
\$20.00 per hundred.

Other Choice Lilies.

	Each	Doz.	100
Auratum, large bulbs,	.25	\$2.50	\$20.00
" extra large bulbs,	.40	4.00	30.00
Rubrum, large bulbs,	.15	1.50	10.00
Album, " "	.25	2.50	20.00
Tigrinum Splendens,	.15	1.50	10.00
Tenuifolium, (Siberian Coral Lily)	.25	2.50	20.00

Some Good Cannas.

Of the new large flowering Cannas the following varieties have been thoroughly tested and are sure to give satisfaction:

Madame Crozy, the oldest of the new large flowering types and still hard to beat.

Alsace, the nearest approach to a white yet introduced

Chas. Henderson, crimson, very popular.

Florence Vaughan, yellow, mottled with crimson, very large.

Burbank, giant orchid flowered Canna, golden yellow, wonderfully profuse bloomer.

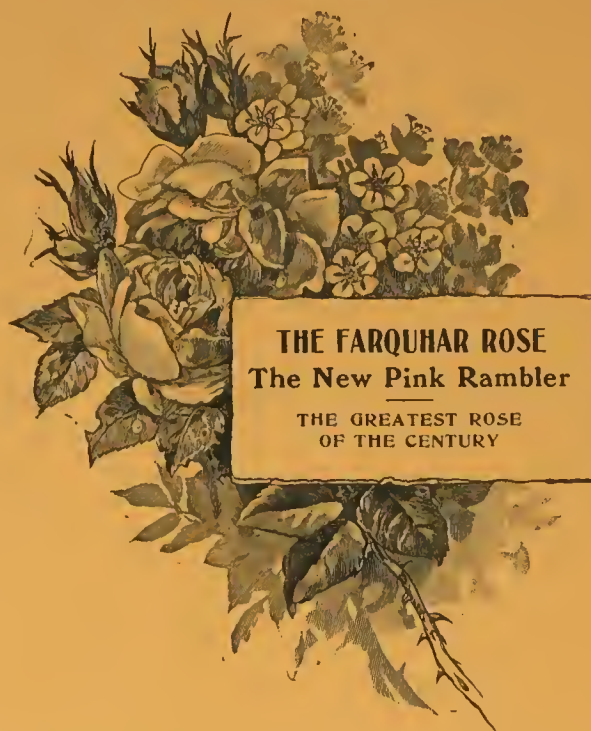
Robusta, dwarf variety with bronze foliage, a giant among Cannas; a single plant of this variety attracts instant attention.

Allemannia, a gigantic flowering canna, producing flowers nothing short of marvelous in size. Outer petals scarlet with broad golden yellow border. Inside scarlet and dark red.

Austria, the giant orchid flowered type, large trusses golden yellow dotted with scarlet.

10 cents each, \$1.00 dozen, \$6.00 per 100.

THE FARQUHAR ROSE.



I clip the following from my notes of a visit to the Spring Flower Show of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Boston:

"The Farquhar Rose was on exhibition and was awarded a silver medal. This Rambler is the largest yet, being quite two inches in diameter, very double and of the liveliest bright pink imaginable, borne in large clusters, and with the individual flowers on longer stems than Crimson Rambler, so that they could be used for design work. It will make a magnificent Easter plant, and its vigor, hardiness, etc., make it a sure winner for outside."

Mr. Jackson Dawson, the raiser of this new rose, describes it as a cross between Wichuriana and Crimson Rambler, with larger and longer stemmed flowers similar in color and size to Carnation Melba. Mr. W. R. Smith, of the National Botanic Gardens, Washington, D. C., pronounces it emphatically the rose for the million. It is superior to Crimson Rambler not only in size of flower, but also as to foliage, which is of a bright, glossy green, and remains until November. Undoubtedly the finest hardy climbing rose to date. Plants have grown over 20 feet in one season. We are recommending it strongly to our florist customers as a grand plant for Easter forcing, and will have some extra strong two-year plants to offer this fall suitable for forcing. In the meantime we have a fine lot of young plants ready for immediate delivery, and offer same, while stock lasts, as follows:

Each.	Dozen.	Hundred.
.50	\$5.00	\$35.00

ADDRESS ALL ORDERS TO

WATSON'S SEED STORE, JUNIPER AND LOCUST STS. PHILADELPHIA.



Photograph of Lawn on Estate of J. W. Gribbel, Esq. Jenkintown, Pa., showing how a good green sod can be had in 6 weeks from sowing by the use of Watson's Lawn Grass, Sown September 4th, Photographed October 16th.

The Common Sense of Lawn Making.

Extract from an article by George C. Watson, in Public Ledger.

Nearly every seedsman says his mixture of grass seeds for lawns and pleasure grounds is the "perfect" lawn grass; but a "perfect" lawn grass has not yet been discovered. The most a seedsman can do is to have an ideal and try to reach it. If he wishes to make a perfect lawn grass he can but use the best varieties for this climate, using the experience of the past as to what does best here and the proper proportion of each sort.

From first to last it is an endless chain, with links closely interlocking. The good, the indifferent, the bad grass mixtures—the world is full of them. But the good are hard to find. Are they worth finding? You can get a good lawn grass if you want it, but you must take the trouble to find it.

Many good gardeners tell us that a mixture is unnecessary, that Kentucky blue grass is all that is needed to make a perfect lawn, and will point to instances in their experience for a demonstration. This contention is so far true that seedsmen have now come to make Kentucky blue grass the foundation of their lawn mixtures. The reasons for adding other varieties to the Kentucky blue are various, one of the principal being that this fine species does not stand our hot summers so well as some others. Then again, it will not do as well as the wood meadow grass will in the shade of trees. For upland, where the soil is light, there is nothing better than the sheep's fescue, and for a tennis green or golf course, or any piece of grass where there is much walking over, the crested dogtail and hard fescue should always be used. Some species start earlier in the spring than the blue and some continue green later in the fall. The sweet vernal is greatly valued on account of its early growth. Rhode Island bent is a valuable permanent species for lawns, especially where the ground is at all inclined to be wet. In New England it is often sown alone to make a lawn, and in this latitude it is usually included in liberal proportion in a mixture. Meadow foxtail is a good permanent grass, and has come into favor on account of its being so well liked by sheep; and, by the way, there are no more useful animals than these in making a good sward. They will pay for themselves twice over, in helping to make a good lawn.

It is hard to tell from looking at a mixture of seeds for a lawn whether all the proper varieties

are included in it or how much pains have been taken in putting it together. Use will tell. But then it will be too late. The only sure way is to buy from a seedsman of experience and reliability. I have seen people using sweepings of the hay loft, being persuaded that grass was just grass. The hay loft sweepings would most likely consist of timothy, red clover and weeds, all three of which are not wanted in a lawn, the first because it is not permanent, the second because it is too rank, the third because they are always in the ground in plenty anyway.

The best time to commence making a lawn is in the fall or early in the spring. First see that the drainage is good, and if it is not naturally so it must be made right before doing anything else. If the subsoil is of a sandy nature, or if the ground has a sloping undulation, no drainage will be required. The various levels of the ground should then be marked off and all inequalities removed. The leveling should be done very carefully, as the close cutting lawn mowers now in use expose any holes or inequalities very conspicuously. After this the ground should be dug over to a good depth, and all stones and roots removed. In cases where the soil is very poor and sandy it should receive ten inches of good top soil from some old pasture, for it is useless to expect grass to grow unless there is sufficient nourishment for the plants to live on.

The best time to sow the seed is early in the spring, as the moist weather then experienced is favorable to the quick germination of the seed, and gives the young plants a chance to get established before the summer comes with its burning heat. The next best time is in September when the weather is comparatively cool, and sufficient growth may be made before the winter sets in. Sow evenly and thinly, selecting a calm day for the purpose. Cover the seeds with a wooden rake, and after the grass is well up, a moderately heavy roller may be passed over it to firm the surface. In fall sowing it is usual to sow oats with the grass seed to mother it: these will die out of themselves. During the season frequent mowings and waterings are necessary. Where the lawn is large enough to admit it put some sheep on—they will do wonders towards giving you a fine sod.



Photograph of Lawn on the Estate of Mrs. Walter B. Stephenson, Haverford, Pa.; 8 months from seed.
Sown with Watson's Lawn Grass, Spring of 1900. Photographed October, 1901.

OUR \$2.10 LAWN GRASS.

We are often asked how it is that we can furnish a first-class Lawn Grass at the low rate of \$2.10 per bushel when other seedsmen are selling their mixtures at \$3.00, \$1.00 and \$5.00 per bushel.

The explanation is simple enough. We handle grass seeds in an extensive way, and do not merely make them a side line like many houses. They are our chief specialty, and have been for the past twenty-five years. Then again, we keep in much closer touch with the best sources of supply both at home and abroad than others, and are thus enabled to furnish grass seeds of better quality and at lower prices. It is merely a case of making special study and knowledge count in the better and lower-priced service which we render to our patrons.

From the time that Faunce de Laune revolutionized the old methods in grass seed selling over twenty years ago to the present day we have been pioneers and specialists in this department, having adopted and consistently practiced modern and up-to-date methods in our business while other houses were oblivious or indifferent to the new order of things. This is one of the main reasons how we were able to forge to the front and stay there.

As to our mixture for Lawns: We are frequently asked why a mixture? Why not use just one kind, like Kentucky Blue Grass or Red Top Grass? The answer is:—to make the best sod you want not only these two excellent kinds but half a dozen others, some of them because they start growth earlier in the spring, others because they continue later in the fall, thus giving a much longer season. Another reason for having eight or ten different species in the Lawn Grass is because it gives a closer sod. Charles L. Flint, our ablest American authority on grasses, demonstrated beyond all cavil that a square foot of sod with one species of grass has always fewer plants than the same area with a number of different species. This demonstration was in harmony with a well-known natural law, not was not fully recognized until Flint's time, and even

to-day many good gardeners are apt to ignore it unless their attention is called to it forcibly by the specialist.

Our \$2.10 Lawn Grass is compounded on the most approved plan in conformity with the ideas expressed above, and is a general purpose mixture calculated for the largest number of soils and situations. It will give a close green turf during the longest possible season. Some grasses endure for only one season, like timothy; others, like orchard grass, are rank and tufty in their habit of growth. All such varieties are excluded from our mixture and only those that are dwarf, hardy, perennial, and compact in growth are admitted. We offer our Lawn Grass to our patrons with every confidence and know that, under favorable conditions, it will give the very best results. Price \$2.10 per bushel (standard weight, 14 pounds.)

GOLF LINKS AND OTHER SPECIAL GRASSES.

We are always pleased to place our knowledge and experience in grasses freely at the disposal of those who contemplate the laying out of Golf Links, Tennis Courts, or Cricket Grounds, and are prepared to make special formulas and quote close figures, according to the soil, location, climate and other necessities of the occasion.

A special formula is often required also for

SHADY LAWNS

and this we can supply as occasion may require.

Quotations are based on the items used in these special formulas, and cannot of course be stated here, but we can assure our patrons that figures will be in all cases most reasonable and lower than can be had elsewhere, while the seeds can be depended on to be of the highest grade and of strong vitality.

A New Grass Seed for Under Trees.

Red Fescue has been recommended for sowing in shady places, especially under the shade of coniferous trees. The following extract is from a letter received from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., November 27th, 1903:

"I note your inquiry concerning Red Fescue and its use as a lawn grass. I have no knowledge of any specific recommendation which this department has given of that species for the purpose mentioned, at least not in a general way. For certain special situations and soils it has been recommended, as, for instance, on certain dry and sterile gravels, where it has been difficult or quite impossible to secure a growth of Kentucky Blue Grass, Red Fescue may be used with good effect. It is also valued for shady situations, particularly where the shade is quite deep, and has been found to give better results *under coniferous trees than almost any other species.*"

R. CARLETON BALL, Assistant Agrostologist.

We have no knowledge of our own in this connection, but if true the matter is important, as Red Fescue is much lower priced than Poa Memoralis (Wood Meadow), which is generally used for shady places. We have therefore imported a quantity of the Red Fescue seeds and recommend same to our customers for trial, and ask them as a special favor to report results. The seed weighs about 20 pounds to the bushel, and costs 14 cents per pound.

**To Secure and Maintain Beautiful
Lawns and Productive Pastures use**

Canada Unleached Hardwood Ashes.

They are nature's complete fertilizer.
They are healthy for man and beast.
They make new soil out of worn-out lands.
They do not make the lawn unsightly.
They produce no unhealthy or offensive odors.
They are easier to handle than other fertilizers.
They keep borers away from the trees.

Realizing the importance of a clean complete manure that can be applied to the lawn and garden, and having all the advantage without the offensiveness and inconvenience attending the application of stable manure, we have imported from Canada the best grade of screened unleached hardwood ashes and are in a position to furnish same to our customers at lowest market rates.

Price per bag of 200 pounds, track Philadelphia \$2.50 ;
per ton \$18.00. (Special rates on import orders and carload lots.)